

Focus North CTE News



OUR PURPOSE

Focus Schools provide safe, caring learning environments with self-paced, flexible, four-day weekly class schedules. These unique schools provide opportunities for students from all walks of life to earn their high school diplomas and industry recognized credentials, opening the door to fulfilling careers, college and post-secondary education opportunities.

OUR MOTTO

Your choice

CAREER-TECH IMPROVES STUDENTS' JOB OPPORTUNITIES AND EARNINGS POTENTIAL

CTE path beneficial to all students including those heading to college

Your grandfather likely knew it as “vocational education” – a narrow path for students with no plans to attend college. But career technical education has evolved in the 21st Century and is now widely recognized as an opportunity for all high school graduates to enhance their marketability and earnings potential.

The best advice an academic counselor can offer a student is to pursue a career for which he or she has a passion. Work doesn't have to be a drag that serves no purpose beyond earning a paycheck. Work can be rewarding -- just ask your teachers! But with limited life experiences, young adults don't always know where their passion lies with respect to a career and CTE is a great way to explore one's options while learning useful skills and fulfilling graduation requirements.

Even students who have a clear vision of their ideal career path benefit from participation in career-tech education. For those heading to community college or university after graduation, landing a job to support themselves while pursuing a degree is an important priority. Marketable skills learned through CTE courses position them to earn a higher rate of pay while pursuing their education.

Ohio's business community has rallied around career-tech education, citing a lack of important skills among job candidates in so many sectors. From corporate leaders to small business owners, finding potential employees with the right skills and work ethic is a challenge.

Workforce development has become an important priority as evidenced by the fact that CTE coursework helps Ohio students fulfill all three graduation requirements: course completion (electives); demonstrating competency (by career readiness); and, readiness (diploma seals).

There are plenty of great reasons to pursue career-tech opportunities ... what are yours?

IT STARTS WITH CAREER-BASED INTERVENTION

Enroll in CBI before selecting a workforce development pathway

All 14- and 15-year-old (freshmen) Focus students are encouraged to participate in career-based intervention (CBI) which is a work-based learning program focused on the basics:



Continued on pg. 2

CAREER-BASED INTERVENTION — *continued*

- ◆ Employability skills;
- ◆ Career exploration;
- ◆ Implementation of a career plan;
- ◆ Work-based learning (paid, unpaid or a combination of both); and,
- ◆ Hands-on assistance with job applications, mock interviewing and partnerships.

These courses focus on life and employability skills and help ensure that students are well-positioned for success in the workforce. CBI helps students understand basic employer expectations across all business sectors.



EXPLORE WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM PATHWAYS

Career-exploration is an important component of career-based intervention (CBI) in that it helps students identify their interests and potential career paths. Hands-on experiences provide students with opportunities to focus on key business sectors of interest and to graduate with the knowledge and skills that will improve their marketability.

Focus North is committed to providing exciting career-tech courses in three key areas:

BUSINESS AND ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

According to Indeed.com, “business administration” has different meanings depending on how it’s being used. To some, it refers to a college degree program that teaches basic business principles and practices. In the work environment, it refers to a company’s efforts to achieve organizational goals and objectives through use of human and material resources. [Click here](#) to review the primary duties of 27 business and administrative jobs.

Complete the entire business and administrative services series and earn 6 credits toward graduation (1.5/year):

- ◆ Fundamentals of business administration;
- ◆ Strategic entrepreneurship;
- ◆ Office & operational management; and,
- ◆ Digital marketing & management, and business administration capstone.

Earn industry-recognized credentials through Rise Up certifications in:

- ◆ Retail industry fundamentals;
- ◆ Customer service & sales; and,
- ◆ Business of retail.



Continued on pg. 3

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT PATHWAYS — *continued*

CONSTRUCTION

Indeed.com describes a construction worker as a manual labor professional responsible for preparing equipment, operating machinery, and taking apart and building structures. Whether new construction, renovations and remodeling or performing maintenance and repairs, the construction field is a strong employment option for many. [Click here](#) to review the primary duties of 12 jobs in the construction industry.

In partnership with the National Center for Construction Educational Research (NCCER), Focus offers a paid pre-apprenticeship through:

- ◆ NCCER Core (face-to-face instruction);
- ◆ Field days (2X/month with offsite field work); and,
- ◆ Project-based experiences at offsite work facility.

This pre-apprenticeship is a full-year program offering Rise Up certifications. Participants earn \$20 per hour with summer job opportunities available.



COSMETOLOGY

Indeed.com describes cosmetologists as those who provide cosmetic services to clients, including hair cutting and styling, and a range of other services such as facial hair treatment, pedicures and manicures. In addition to working in a salon, some cosmetologists provide services in spas and resorts. [Click here](#) to learn more about careers in cosmetology.

Cosmetology is a new workforce development program pathway available to Focus North students. Its offerings include:

- ◆ Boutique service registration license, and braiding hair, shampooing, threading, eye lash extensions & dreads (pre-cosmetology)
- ◆ Microbiology & infection control and fundamentals of hair cutting & styling;
- ◆ Skin care fundamentals & enhancements and salon operations & communications; and,
- ◆ Manicurist.

Complete the three-month pre-cosmetology series and earn 12 credits toward graduation: 3 for braiding, 3 for shampooing, 3 for threading, and 3 for make-up artistry.

Complete the one-year manicurist course and 200 hours to earn 12 credits toward graduation.



INDUSTRY-RECOGNIZED CREDENTIALS

Industry-recognized credentials help students experience education *through* work, *about* work and *for* work. Earning industry-recognized credentials puts students on a path to success after high school — positioning them to directly enter the workplace or go on to two- or four-year colleges. Industry-recognized credentials are an innovative approach to truly recognize and account for a student’s hard work in becoming career ready. Possessing an industry-recognized credential not only helps students prove competency and capability in a given field, but also demonstrates to the community and employers that students are knowledgeable, properly trained and equipped to carry out their duties. Earning an industry-recognized credential can also be an important step toward qualifying for high school graduation.



RISE UP

Focus students have opportunities to earn industry-recognized credentials and 12 credits toward graduation by completing four simple steps:

1. **Success PREP** — attend Intake Day to join the cohort, complete the Intake Day form, sign up and complete Skills to Succeed;
2. **Fundamental of Retail** (6 points) — complete three lessons and pass three untimed multiple-choice exams with a score of 70% or higher;
3. **Customer Service** (6 points) — complete one lesson and pass one timed multiple-choice exam with a score of 70% or higher

OR

Business of Retail (6 points) — complete one session and pass one multiple-choice exam with a score of 70% or higher

4. **Seals — Demonstrate Readiness:** Upon completing two Rise Up Certifications, students will earn an industry-recognized credential seal and be required to complete an OhioMeansJobs Readiness Seal.

OhioMeansJobs

A STATE ONLINE CAREER PLANNING TOOL

OhioMeansJobs K-12 helps students discover career interests, explore future job options, build a budget for the future, create a resume and more. Students also have the opportunity to earn an OhioMeansJobs Readiness Seal which serves as evidence of various professional skills valued by Ohio businesses.



CAREER-TECH = OPPORTUNITY

Eight years after their expected graduation date, students who focused on career and technical education courses while in high school had higher median annual earnings than students who did not focus on CTE.

CTE provides an important pathway to success for high school students and offers each student opportunities to personalize his or her education based on their career interests and unique learning needs.

— U.S. Department of Education